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Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

The situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48

Twenty-fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/27), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48.

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement, under operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48 the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar; to submit additional reports to the General Assembly during its fifty-seventh session on the progress of those discussions; and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

3. The activities related to the implementation of the request are described in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the statement. Paragraphs 6 and 7 contain information on the estimated resource requirements. The Committee notes that the Secretary-General estimates the costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General through his Special Envoy for Myanmar at $307,400 net ($372,600 gross) for a one-year period (1 January to 31 December 2003). Information is provided in the annex to the statement, including the provision of salary for the Special Envoy at the rate applicable on a when-actually-employed basis and for the salaries and common staff costs of two staff (a Political Affairs Officer at the P-3 level and one local staff), who would provide support to the Special Envoy.

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4. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the two posts, requested for the first time, are made necessary by the increased activity envisaged by the Special Envoy for 2003 to build upon the positive momentum generated in the past several months in facilitating the dialogue among interested parties in Myanmar towards national reconciliation. Moreover, in view of the increasing frequency of the Special Envoy's consultation missions to Yangon, the United Nations Development Programme office, which was previously involved in that regard, finds it increasingly more difficult to provide the level of support required.

5. The Committee further notes from paragraph 7 of the statement that an unencumbered balance of $143,500 is expected to remain from the appropriation of $277,900 for 2002. Taking that balance into account, the additional requirements would therefore amount to $163,900 net ($229,100 gross).

6. **Bearing in mind what is stated in paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General, the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48, an additional appropriation of $163,900 would be required under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003. Furthermore, an appropriation of $65,200 would be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**